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GRAB MAGAZINE


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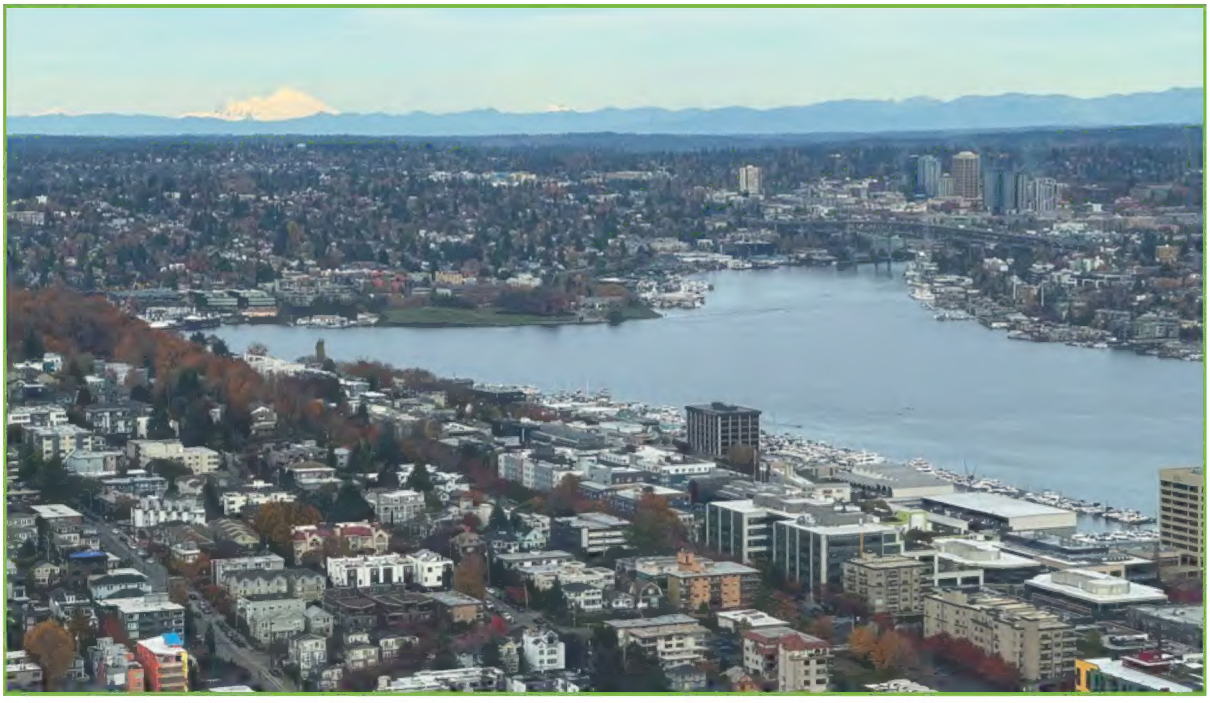
# GRAB A PLANE



## Your Seattle Weekend: Orca whale watching, 14,000 foot volcanoes, and exploring Capitol Hill

**By Bill Malcolm**

The Pacific Northwest never fails to amaze. And this trip was no exception. I saw two pods of Orca whales on the ferry from Bainbridge Island to Seattle. The boat cut power to seven knots while we watched the whales.

And "the mountains were out" during my visit meaning I saw Mount Rainier (14,000-plus feet), the Olympics, and the Cascade Ranges plus Mount Baker to the north on a visit to the Space Needle. Next door at the Seattle Center, they were celebrating Hmong New Year with native dances, a talk on their history, and special foods like papaya salad.

***GETTING THERE***

I took Alaska Airlines non stop to Seattle. It's the only remaining regional airline which features great service with a Northwest flair.

Getting around, I took Sound Transit Link light rail (just $3 from the airport). The light rail line is also great for getting to the gayborhood (Capitol Hill) and to the U District (home of the University of Washington). Purchase an Orca card which is good on all types of transit.

Seattle has great Amtrak service including down to Portland and up to Vancouver, B.C.

***WHAT TO DO***

Take the ferry to Bainbridge Island ($9 round trip). Great views of downtown Seattle. Enjoy the new waterfront on your way where walking paths beautifully landscaped have replaced a double decker freeway.

Just south of downtown is historic Pioneer Square.

No visit to Seattle would be complete without a stop at the iconic Pike Place Market. Grab lunch and a fresh carrot juice. Watch the fish vendors throw the salmon around. Enjoying stunning views of the Olympic Mountains and Puget Sound over lunch.

Take a walk around the beautiful UW campus with great views of Mount Rainier. Hike along Lake Washington and the Montlake Cut (which runs to Lake Union).

Join the Frontrunners Saturdays at Green Lake Park at 9:15 a.m., rain or shine, for a walk around the lake. It's a friendly group and a great way to meet the locals. They go to brunch afterwards. Or grab a salad at the nearby PCC Market in Green Lake Village.

Enjoy the view of the mountains from the Space Needle in Seattle Center. The $49 charge is worth it. Then take the Monorail back downtown.

Explore the gayborhood, Capitol Hill, just above downtown via Pike or Pine Street. Explore the shops and restaurants along Broadway. The undies store (aka UnderU4men) is fun. You will find them at 709 E Broadway. They also have several art galleries. And enjoy a Dick's Deluxe hamburger and fries. Sunday is their farmers market.

Then head up to Volunteer Park for great views of the Olympics as well as home to the Asian Art Museum. I did a lot of "volunteer" work when I went to the U.

SIDETRACK

new year's day

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***NIGHTLIFE***

The Cuff Complex has dancing. Get there before 8 p.m. to avoid the cover. Sunday is now karaoke time.

The Union Bar is friendly and fun. You will find it at 1009 East Union. It has a nice outdoor patio.

Urban hipsters and grunge types will like Pony. Enjoy the sexy photos from a bygone era. Enjoy the patio.

The Madison Pub is a lot of fun. You will find it at 1315 E Madison. It has lots of TV screens to watch your favorite sports team. Free lunch during Seahawks games is a plus.

Wildrose is the women's bar and has been around quite a while. Wildrose is the West Coast's oldest lesbian bar. You will find it at 1021 E Pike.

You will find all the bars near Capitol Hill.

***WHERE TO STAY***

I stayed at the Sheraton Grand (1400 Sixth Avenue) which was right downtown and near the Westlake Village light rail station and a short walk to Capitol Hill. Because I was with a conference, I did not have to pay the resort fee. Always check for such rip-off fees (aka amenity fee/ destination fee) before booking.

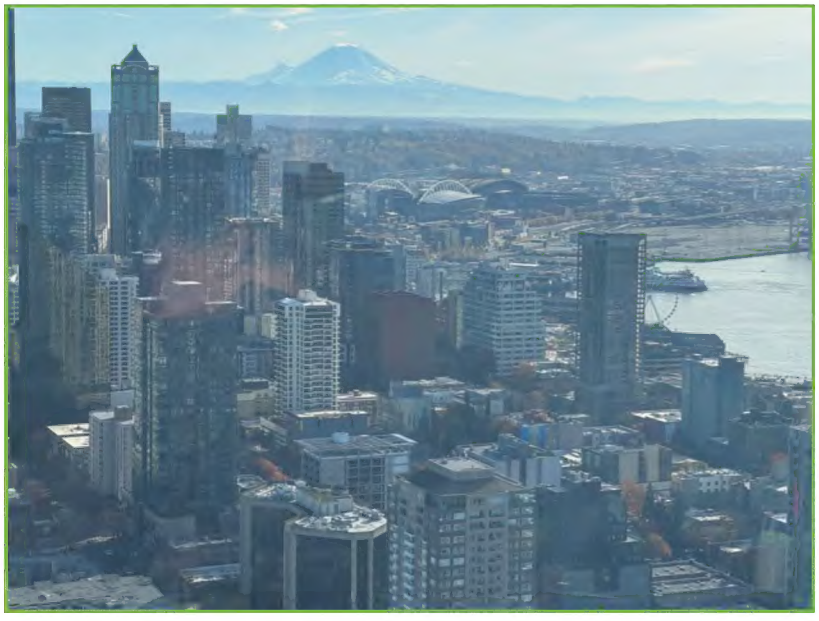
Bargain hunters will like The Baroness on First Hill and its sister property Inn at Virginia Mason. Both are handy to Capitol Hill and downtown albeit a steep hike up from the Symphony light rail station.

***WHERE TO EAT***

The Rhein Has at 912 12th Avenue has great beef goulash and brats.

I grabbed a salad at the PCC Community Market in Green Lake (400 NE 71st). When travelling alone, I prefer hot food and salad bars over sit-down restaurants. They are cheaper and healthier. Indeed, Seattle has some of the highest restaurant prices in the country (New York City and DC notwithstanding.

Be sure and have some salmon during your visit. It's a Northwest staple.



***For More Information/Insider Tips***

Seattle is very hilly. Like San Francisco, many of the neighborhoods sit atop hills (Capitol Hill, Queen Anne). Like San Francisco, it also has a homeless problem and is also very expensive.

Avoid the peak summer tourist season to save on hotel costs.

While it rains a lot, there can be sunny days even in the winter. And it is never bitter cold. The plethora of evergreen trees give it a unique feel. But it gets dark early in the winter being so far north.

*Seattle Gay News* (***sgn.org)*** is your source for local happening and gay events. Editor Madison sometimes runs my columns.

*The Stranger* is the alternative weekly.

You will be amazed by the stunning setting that is Seattle. I always enjoy my visits. You will too.

*Bill Malcolm's syndicated LGBTQ travel column appears in select publications around North America and on line including the IGLTA.org travel blog. He focuses on value and unique experiences. A graduate of the University of Washington, he has a special fondness for the great Pacific Northwest. He pays his own way so unlike other travel writers is not encumbered by receiving freebies. And he avoids hotels and hotel chains with undisclosed rip off resort fees.*

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- **Severe liver problems**, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- **The most common side effects of BIKTARVY** in clinical studies were diarrhea (6%), nausea (6%), and headache (5%).

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GILEAD

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**Please see Important Facts about BIKTARVY, including important warnings, on the previous page and at BIKTARVY.com.**

# GRAB JOHN

*Photo By Greg Gorman*

## Have yourself a merry John Waters Christmas

**By Gregg Shapiro**

When it comes to iconic Christmas scenes in movies, none can top the tree-toppling tantrum thrown by cha-cha heels-deprived Dawn Davenport in John Waters' fifth full-length feature "Female Trouble" from 1974. Therefore, it's not all that surprising that Waters continues to make art out of Christmas, performing his spoken word Christmas tour in cities across the country. Waters has even more reason to celebrate with the release of his new red vinyl 7" single, a cover of Little Cindy's "Happy Birthday Jesus (A Child's Prayer)" on the A-side, and "A Pig Latin Visit From St. Nicholas" on the B-side. If you're still looking for unique Christmas gifts, consider this record. As always, John was kind enough to make time for an interview in advance of his tour dates.

**Gregg Shapiro: John, in preparation for this interview with you, I went back and listened to Little Cindy's original rendition of "Happy Birthday Jesus (A Child's Prayer)" on your "A John Waters Christmas" CD.**
***John Waters:*** One thing I did, if you notice, I make the same stumble in my recording that she did in the original.

**GS: It sounded to me like she got choked up.**
***JW:*** No, I think she just stumbles over a word, so I stumbled over the same word. It's appropriation, insanely.

**GS: Is this a song you first became aware of in your youth or when you were an adult?**
***JW:*** When I was doing the Christmas album, I had this friend named Larry Benicewicz. He was kind of my idea man with music. He knew every single old record. I would say to him, "Weird Christmas songs," when we were doing a soundtrack, or a song about bears, or a song about this, and he would give me all these tapes. It was one of the ones he played for me. A lot of the songs I put in my movies and on my records, I did know as a kid. I did not know this one, but I immediately embraced it. I don't think it's campy. I think it really is spiritual in a weird way. My doing it makes it a novelty record. I am really for novelty records, and there aren't any anymore. Why was there not a COVID novelty record? That's insane. The dance "The Bug" that's on the "Hairspray" soundtrack would be perfect for COVID.

**GS: The thing that struck me was that for a Christmas song in the voice of a child, a kind of death pall hangs over it, with lines like, "If I was good you'd let me live with you" and "they nailed you to the cross, they wanted you to die."**
***JW:*** All of it! When I see children at midnight mass kneeling in front of a nude man nailed to a cross, I feel like I'm at The Eagle! It is S&M, it's creepy. I took the same cover

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(photo) from her record to parody and put my face on it. The same thing I did with The Singing Dogs last year when I covered (their version of) "Jingle Bells." I'm really into novelty records. I love them and I'm trying to bring them back. I don't expect anybody to ever play these records. Even The Singing Dogs one said on it, "Please do not play this record" [laughs]. And the flipside, the Pig Latin version, is almost impossible to listen to.

**GS: I'm so glad you mentioned that. "A Pig Latin Visit From St. Nicholas" reminded me of the lost art of speaking in Pig Latin. I also recall watching the PBS series "Zoom" as an adolescent and learning to speak "ubbi dubbi," a distant relative of Pig Latin. Do you think that the time is right for a Pig Latin or ubbi dubbi revival?**
***JW:*** Here's the thing, I never could pick up any language, except Pig Latin. I've been in every foreign country. Foreign countries have given me money to learn to speak the language. I can never do it! But Pig Latin… my parents and other parents in the '50s spoke Pig Latin so kids couldn't understand what they were saying. Then my mother taught it to me, and I used it. The hardest take to shoot in "Pink Flamingos" was not eating the dog shit. It was when the cast skipped, in one take, saying "E-way, are-yay e-they ilthiest-fay eople-pay in-hay e-they ole-hay ide-way orld-way." We're the filthiest people in the whole wide world in Pig Latin. We had to do so many takes so they could do it once without screwing it up. In "Polyester," Edith (Massey) answers the phone, "ello-hay." I did a photo piece where it was all subtitled in Pig Latin. Like "osebud-Ray" (from "Citizen Kane") or in "Streetcar," "ella-Stay!" [Laughs] All the iconic dialogue translated into Pig Latin. My assistant who helped me do it, had never heard of Pig Latin. She really got good at it because she lived in many foreign countries and can pick up languages. But it's not that easy to do it correctly and read it. Your computer will translate into Pig Latin.

**GS: AI understands Pig Latin?**
***JW:*** I guess that's AI. It wasn't 100 percent right, but it was close. I can speak it if I look at it, but just do a bit at a time. It was a challenge that no one would possibly care about or want to do.

**GS: I think you pulled it off very well.**
***JW:*** If you want people to leave on Christmas morning, you put it on. That's how you get your guests to leave. It's time to go.

**G:S: Ood-gay i-bay! How did your relationship with record label Sub Pop, which released 2021, 2022, 2024, and new 2025 holiday singles, come about?**
***JW:*** I believe the first thing I did for them was "Prayer to Pasolini." They came to me through Ian Brennan. He's won a couple Grammys for World Music, but he is also is one of my agents who does the Christmas tour and a lot of my shows, anything with music. He helped me arrange each one of the songs. He had a relationship with Sub Pop. It was perfect. My friends in Baltimore, (the band) Beach House, have had huge success.

**GS: That's right, they're on Sub Pop!**
***JW:*** Yes! I'm happy to be on it. I've even been to the warehouse and posed for pictures like Jackie Suzanne used to do.

**GS: Is there any chance that "A John Waters Christmas" might be reissued on vinyl by Sub Pop?**
***JW:*** No. It's such a nightmare to get the rights and to renew them. You have to find the publisher and the writer, and they usually hate each other. It doesn't matter if it's obscure or famous, it's hard to get. You have to make the deal. The singer doesn't get anything unless they play it on the radio. It would be so complicated legally, and there would be such a [laughs] tiny audience for it. I hope it will come out again. The same thing with the one for Valentine's Day. I had two of them that did quite well when they came out; "A Date With John Waters and "A John Waters Christmas." The "John Waters Christmas" album is still the soundtrack that plays whenever I'm doing my spoken word Christmas show as people are entering the theater.

Photo By Greg Gorman

**GS: Aside from your annual Christmas show tour, what else do you do for the holidays now, and are there any traditions that you've carried over from your family?**
***JW:*** Certainly! I have two sisters, my brother's widow, and me, so there are four and we take turns each year to have the Christmas dinner. Mine was last year. An entire sit-down dinner. Mom's china, the silverware, the entire full dinner. It's pretty traditional. I don't have a Christmas tree, but I do decorate the electric chair from "Female Trouble." That *is* a tradition in my family. We do have Christmas decorations, but they're usually weird ones that fans sent me. I have one with Divine knocking over the Christmas tree, and the Christmas tree lights up, all sorts of amazing things. There is definitely a tradition here that might be a little altered, but it is definitely a tradition. I used to have a giant party every year, but COVID ended that. I still wouldn't want 200 people in my house breathing right now.

**GS: I was looking at your tour**

**schedule and wondered if there are any new cities in which you've never performed the John Waters Christmas show that have been added to this year's schedule?**
***JW:*** I don't think there's a city in America in which I haven't done one show! The only places I haven't been to are Hawaii and Alaska. I could do it there, but it's too long on a tour. I can't think of a city I haven't played in in America over the last 50 years. The Christmas show is completely different every year. It doesn't matter if you saw it last year.

**John Waters will be at Avondale Music Hall Tuesday December 16th doors open at 6:30pm.Tickets Available at *www.do312.com.***

Photo By Greg Gorman

# GRAB JULIA

## Holding out for a "Hero": An interview with Julia Jackman

**By Gregg Shapiro**

Sometimes the arrival of a movie into our lives is so perfect, it feels like a wish coming true. Such is the case with queer filmmaker Julie Jackman's **"100 Nights of Hero"** (IFC). A fantastical romance with potent queer and feminist messages, the movie is as entertaining as it is enlightening, equal parts hilarious and heartwarming. The primary cast, including Emma Corrin as the titular Hero, along with Maika Monroe and Nicholas Galitzine (who has more than few shirtless scenes – swoon!), look as though they had as much fun making the movie as audiences will have watching it. Writer/director Jackman was kind enough to make time for an interview before it opened in theaters.

**Gregg Shapiro: Julia, I'd like to begin by saying how much I enjoyed your sweetly queer feature film debut, "Bonus Track."**
***Julia Jackman:*** Thank you so much!
**GS: The movie is based on a story co-written by actor Josh O'Connor. How did that project come about?**
***JJ:*** That was actually during a particularly bleak lockdown. My agent wrote to me and said, "There are these lovely producers," who I also ended working with on ("100 Nights of Hero"), "Erebus Pictures, and this actor Josh O'Connor, and they would like to meet with you to talk about this film, 'Bonus Track.'" I read it, and I wished I'd had more stuff like that when I was going through my own first experiences. I felt really drawn to the warmth of it. Of course, there's a certain element of wish fulfillment in all romantic comedies, but I felt like I wanted more of that. I was intrigued, because I'd never made a romantic comedy. Having met Josh now, it makes sense. But I was like, "Why me?" I was very intrigued. I guess we all were 16 at that exact time, as well, and it was this massive nostalgia trip for all of us.

**GS: You go from present day in "Bonus Track" to a fantasy world set in an unnamed time period with "100 Nights of Hero." What was that transition like for you?**
***JJ:*** It was definitely interesting. I think that it was tempered by the fact that while "Bonus Track" had been brought to me, I had adapted this one actually before I made "Bonus Track," (and) put it in a drawer for later and had had time to sit with the challenge of that. It was still fast, surprising, and challenging. Weirdly, it didn't feel as different as I thought it would. It made me feel so old that the kids in the film (which is set in 2006) were calling it a period film. That obviously made me feel absolutely ancient. There was still some world crafting, like what phones, what clothes, someone would use at that time. Building a fantastical world in "100 Nights," I felt like I had to pick some epic details, but then lean into the intimacy because it's an indie film. The three moons did a lot of heavy lifting of the parallel universe. Because it was mostly unfolding in a castle, costumes and moons did the heavy lifting. I'm really indebted to the crew.

**GS: It does look great! When did you first come upon Isabel Greenberg's graphic novel "The One Hundred Nights of Hero," the basis for your film, and did you discover it on your own, or was it recommended to you?**
**JJ:** A friend of a friend, not in film,

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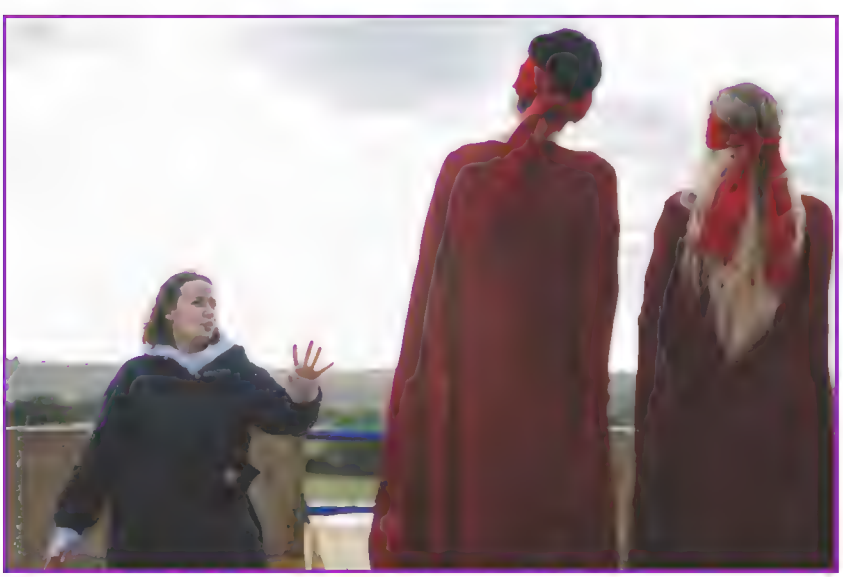
recommended it to me. I just loved it. I really enjoyed the playfulness of it. Again, it was the kind of thing I would have enjoyed when I was growing up. I liked films that had their own oddity to them but still a hopefulness and funniness, like "The Princess Bride."

**GS: Good example.**
***JJ:*** The idea of getting to do a queer iteration of the fairy tales and myths that I so enjoyed growing up, and the feeling of being transported to another world instead of staying in social realism, felt like freedom and really exciting.

**GS: Would you say the story's pro-woman message was also something that appealed to you?**
***JJ:*** It was hugely appealing. It's interesting to me because, and definitely something I tried to bring forward, is that certainly the patriarchy hurts women. But I think it was really important to me that, while not excusing the actions of some of the men in this, it's not a women versus men issue. No one's having fun. Even if they think they're benefiting from it, as soon as they want something that deviates from it, it's such a slippery slope. No one's gonna adhere to those rules for their whole lives. No one's going to be able to keep that up. It's not fit for purpose for anyone. I wanted to show the pressure. Obviously, it's not fair, and it's not balanced, but it puts an enormous amount of pressure on absolutely everybody and creates this painfully rigid environment.

**GS: Seeing Emma Corrin as Hero, Nicholas Galitzine as Manfred, and Maika Monroe as Cherry was one of those moments when you realize how perfectly cast a movie is, that no other actors could have possibly played those characters. Would you agree?**
***JJ:*** I was so lucky with the cast. Because it's such a big ensemble piece, I had an amazing casting director called Olivia Grant, who was wonderful. The core trio was something I had to think about before we even brought a team on board, because that was going to be the way that the film got made, since I've been sitting with it. I hadn't gone through a traditional development process. I had optioned it on my own. It was developed first and then brought on producers down the line. It was all done in a less traditional way. To be honest, I was absolutely thrilled. I think those three all met properly for the first time on set. Indie film, again. I thought they would all have good chemistry, but I was delighted to see that that was the case.



**GS: Being a filmmaker who identifies as a member of the LGBTQ community, how important is it for you to bring stories featuring queer characters to audiences?**
***JJ:*** Really important! But, also, I think it's only in hindsight do you realize just how intrinsically that's what you gravitated towards. When I was growing up, my first crush was Frank-N-Furter in "Rocky Horror" [laughs]. Child me was like, "There's just something I find incredible about this person!" I would just watch that song, again and again.

**GS: "Sweet Transvestite?"**
***JJ:*** Yes, yes! That was the whole film for me. I also remember my babysitter, whom I also idolized, when she was 16, and I was 8, putting on "Velvet Goldmine," and

telling me to hide during some of the parts. These are things that I remember because there was something about those that made me pay very close attention. When I was a teenager, my friends joked that every time I liked a character or a thing in a film, they'd end up being gay, even if they weren't out. My entire friend group when I was a teenager, now everyone is out. There was a time when I was the only out person. It's what you gravitate towards. I don't even necessarily intend to do it, but I've noticed that a lot of times the things that I can find my way into the most or that excite me or that I come across just are queer.

**GS: Without giving away too much, "100 Nights of Hero" has a kind of "Thelma and Louise" moment, but one that is more hopeful.**

***JJ:*** Hopeful was really important to me. Even though I know sincerity sometimes can invite eye rolls a little bit more. But that was a sincere part of the graphic novel that I gravitated towards: hopeful anger, basically. Which I think is a tone that a lot of people margin-alized communities feel. We're angry, but we're hopeful. It was also the fact that they were never going to let them go. They love to dangle a choice. This feeling of defiance and living life on your own terms and that being an expression of hope. This idea that when people offer you a false choice or try and take something away from you, all you can do is say, "I know what's happening here, and you're not going to make me feel like you control me."

**GS: Have you started working on or thinking about your next film project?**

***JJ:*** Yeah. I'm developing a couple of things. I've got some stuff that it's too early to talk about. There are a couple of things that I'm excited about. I only delivered the film ("100 Nights of Hero") a few months ago. I'm still in that frazzled state. But, yes, watch this space.

Skate in the Parks
Ice skating season is now open!
Please visit www.ChicagoParkDistrict.com for a complete schedule of holiday hours & upcoming events!
Skate sharpening ($10) while you wait (within 1 hour) this winter at Midway Plaisance & Warren Park.

# On Mekahel Celebrates a Hoe-y Christmas

**By Kevin Wirth**

For On Mekahel, A Hoe-y Christmas is more than just a collection of songs. It's a celebration of queer joy and chosen family. "I grew up in Israel, where we didn't celebrate Christmas," he explains. "But I always loved the decorations and the lights. When I met my husband, Christmas became part of my life, too. Our first Christmas together was one of the most magical moments of my life, and I wanted to share that warmth with all of my fans this holiday season."

While the title and tone are undeniably cheeky, Mekahel says the albums comes straight from the heart. "It is a love letter to the holidays," he says. He explains more.

**Kevin Wirth: If you could describe A Hoe-y Christmas in three words to someone who hasn't heard it yet, what would they be?**
***OM:*** Sexy because the whole EP has this sultry, playful energy running through every track. Warm because I poured my heart and natural warmth into these songs.
Cozy because A Hoe-y Christmas is all about that feeling of being cuddled up with good vibes and holiday spirit all around you.

**KW: What inspired you to create the album?**
***OM:*** I wanted to create an experience for people who love Christmas and the holidays but from a different perspective than the wholesome, family-oriented one we're used to. I wanted the songs to feel festive and familiar, but with a sexy twist. Something a little less traditional, a little wild, and definitely fun.

**KW: You've included a mix of originals and reimagined holiday standards like "Hoe-y Night" and "Hark the Herald Who?". How did you decide which classics to twist and make your own?**
***OM:*** I chose my favorite traditional holiday songs and simply added a little of me to them.
For example, "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" has always been one of my favorites, but coming from a culture where I didn't grow up with these songs, I used to wonder: who's Harold? So I decided to explore that in a playful way. And "Silent Night" is such a beautiful song full of spirit, but I turned it into "Hoe-y Night" because that felt a little more like me; still warm, but cheekier.

**KW: Your version of "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" brings a queer, soulful warmth to a timeless favorite.**
***OM:*** I sang it exactly the way I've always sung it. I wanted to keep it authentic to how I naturally perform it. Our pianist, Ark, followed the melody the way I've always done it, and we recorded it raw and soulful.

**KW: "Under the Blanket" sounds like it could be the perfect cozy (or steamy!) winter anthem. What's the story behind it?**
***OM:*** That one was written entirely by my husband, Dave, who writes most of my music with me. I only gave him the title, because that's exactly where I want to be with him during the holidays. The song really captures one of our winter traditions. Every year, we go up to our cabin with our puppies and spend a few days, just the two of us. No work, no distractions, just snow, a fireplace, and each other under the blanket.

**KW: The humor in A Hoe-y Christmas really stands out, but so does its heart. How did you strike the balance between campy fun and genuine holiday emotion?**
***OM:*** The whole EP is full of emotion. I wanted every song to flow naturally into the next, creating a cozy little journey. Between the traditional covers and the originals, everything came from a place of love.

***A Hoe-y Christmas is available now on all Platforms***

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Strauss
Salome
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Mozart
Così fan tutte
A rom-com battle of the sexes, just in time for Valentine's Day.
Feb. 1 - 15
Renée Fleming
VOICE OF NATURE: THE ANTHROPOCENE
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Thurs, Feb. 5 at 7pm

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SCREENING THE ROSE BOWL PARADE 10AM

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## BOWL GAMES & CHILI PARTY

ORANGE BOWL AT 11AM
ROSE BOWL AT 3PM
SUGAR BOWL AT 7PM

@7PM

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## MR. CHICAGO LEATHER 2026

CONTEST WEEKEND
JANUARY 30 - FEBRUARY 1

# GRAB YOUR FRIENDS

Daily Specials;

**MONDAY**

***2 Bears Tavern Uptown:*** $5 Stoli Cocktails (Any Flavors), EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pinball & Darts.***@mosphere:*** $5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm. ***Cell Block:*** Open 1pm-2am. ***Charlies:*** Half off Hennessy and Patron 7pm - 11pm ABC Bingo, 11pm Charlie's Live. ***Hydrate:*** Lips and Mascara Doors at 8pm Show at 10pm. ***North End:*** Open at 11am, $5 Well Drinks.***Shakers on Clark:*** Comedy Night $1 off Well Drinks and Well Shots. ***Sidetrack:*** Open at 3pm, Musical Monday Show Tunes 8pm-2am. ***Steamworks:*** Every 3rd Monday TM4M (Trans Men For Men) 8pm-2am. ***The Sofo Tap:*** $5 Whiskeys, Ryes & Bourbons, $5 Tecate Tallboys, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts. ***Touche:*** Open 5pm-4am. Horny Bastards A Night for those who just didn't get enough over the weekend.

**TUESDAY**

***2 Bears Tavern Uptown:*** $3 House Shots, $5 Miller Lite Drafts, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pinball & Darts***@mosphere:*** $5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, Game Night with Tony. ***Cell Block:*** Open 1pm-2am. ***Charlie's:*** $4 You Call It's 5pm - 9pm, 7pm - 11pm BS Karaoke, 11pm Baddies Block Party. ***Hydrate:*** TatTuesday XXL Doors open at 8pm. ***Kit Kat Lounge:*** Happy Hour 4-6pm $8 WINE, $9 APPS, $10 Martinis. Live Instrumentalists. ***Lucky Horseshoe:*** Open at 6pm. Dancers at 8pm. Open auditions for male dancers 7pm. $5 drink specials. ***Meeting House Tavern:*** $3 House Shots, $5 Miller Lite Drafts, $5 Premium Well Cocktails, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts & Pool. ***North End:*** Open at 11am, $5 Canned Beers, Seltzers & Ciders. ***Shakers on Clark:*** $3 Domestic Beers. ***Sidetrack:*** Open at 3pm, Trivia Tuesday 8-10pm, TRL Tuesday: Totally Rad Line-up of 90's-to-Now Music Videos 10pm-2am, OUTspoken LGBTQ+ Storytelling 1st Tuesday of the month from 7-9pm. ***Steamworks:*** Every Tuesday 4 pm – 4 am Guys Under 25 Get In Free* (*Free 30 day membership and free locker). ***The Sofo Tap:*** $5 New Amsterdam Cocktails, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts ***Touche:*** Open 5pm - 4am.Hardcore Cruisin' No Cell Phones/Wifi, 6-9pm $3 Well Drinks $1 Off call-imports, $3 PBR/Rolling Rock.

**WEDNESDAY**

***2 Bears Tavern Uptown:*** $5 Premium Well Cocktails, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pinball & Darts. ***Cell Block:*** Open 1pm-2am. ***Charlie's:*** $4 You Call it's 5pm - 9pm, 7pm - 11pm SCCDA Country Dancing, 11pm Boys and Booze. ***Jackhammer:*** $4 Premium Well Cocktails, $3 House Shots, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pool & Darts. ***Kit Kat Lounge:*** Happy Hour 4-6pm $8 WINE, $9 APPS, $10 Martinis. Live Broadway Vocalists. ***Lucky Horseshoe:*** Open at 6pm Dancers at 8pm. $5 drink specials. ***Meeting House Tavern:*** $4 Miller Lite Drafts, $5 Stoli Cocktails (All Flavors), EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts & Pool. ***North End:*** Open at 11am $5 Lagunitas Draft & Cans. ***Shakers on Clark***: Karaoke Night $1 Off Long Islands. ***Sidetrack:*** Open at 3pm, All Things Taylor 1st Wed of month, All Things Beyoncé 2nd Wed of month, All Things Gaga 3rd Wed of month, All Things Dua & Ariana last Wed of month: all 9pm-2am. ***Steamworks:*** Bear Hump Every second Wednesday 6-9pm A monthly mid-week gathering of Furry Men. ***The Sofo Tap:*** $3 House Shots, $5 Stoli Cocktails (All Flavors), $5 Miller Lite Drafts, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts. ***Touche:*** Jockstrap Night Free Clothing Check, 12/24 Chriatmas Eve Party with Santa 10pm. 12/31 49th Annual Black & Blue New Year's Eve Party.

**THURSDAY**

***2 Bears Tavern Uptown:*** $5 Premium Well Cocktails, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pinball & Darts. ***@mosphere:*** $5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, RuPaul Drag Race All Stars 6 Viewing Party - 7pm. ***Cell Block:*** Open 1pm-2am. ***Charlie's:*** 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month:$4 You Call it's 5pm - 9pm, 8pm - 10pm Mother Rebirth, 10pm - Power up Reloaded. 2nd Thursday of the Month: $4 You Call it's 5pm - 9pm, 8pm - 10pm the Pop Ball, 10pm Scissor Sisters. 4th Thursday of the Month: $4 You Call it's 5pm - 9pm, 8pm - 10pm the Pop Ball, 10pm Vinyl. ***Jackhammer:*** $3 House Shots, $5 New Amsterdam Cocktails, $5 Miller Lite Tallboys, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pool & Darts. ***Kit Kat Lounge:*** Happy Hour 4-6pm $8 WINE, $9 APPS, $10 Martinis.Live Ballet.***Lucky Horseshoe:*** Open at 6pm. Dancers at 8pm. $5 drink specials. ***Meeting House Tavern:*** $4 Premium Well Cocktails, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts & Pool. ***North End:*** Open at 11am, $5 Deep Eddy Cocktails. ***Shakers on Clark:*** $1 off All Call Liquor Mixed Drinks,Karaoke 10pm-1am. ***Sidetrack:*** Open at 3pm, Let's Go Thursday! Pop Music Videos in Glass/ Side Bars 9pm-2am, Pink Pony Club 1st Thur of month in Main Bar, All Things K-Pop other Thursdays in Main Bar. ***Steamworks:*** Lights Out Thursdays, The Club goes Dark Every Thursday 4pm-4am. ***The Sofo Tap:*** $5 New Amsterdam Cocktails, $5 Stoli Mules (All Flavors), EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts ***Touche:*** Open 5pm - 4am.Throwback Thursdays 70's & 80's Music & Porn By Bijou Video. 12/25 Christmas Day open at 8pm Club Room Open!

## Daily Specials;

### FRIDAY

**2 Bears Tavern Uptown:** HAPPY HOUR (3-7 PM): $4 New Amsterdam Cocktails, $5 Chicago Handshakes, ALL DAY SPECIALS: $3 House Shots, $5 Miller Lite Drafts, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pinball & Darts. **@mosphere:** $5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, Dancers 10pm-1am. **Baton Show Lounge:** Doors open at 6pm, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30pm. **Cell Block:** Open 1pm-2am. **Charlie's**: 1st Friday of the Month 8pm - 11pm Cage Fight Allstars, 11pm Charlie's Presents. 2nd Friday:8pm - 11pm Cage Fight Allstars, 11pm Glow Up. 3rd Friday 8pm - 11pm Cage Fight Allstars, 11pm Thirst Trap. 4th Friday 8pm - 11pm Cage Fight Allstars 11pm Haus of Charlie's. **Jackhammer:** $8 New Amsterdam & Red Bulls, $8 WYNK THC, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pool & Darts. **Kit Kat Lounge:** All Day Brunch All Drag,Brunch Seating Times 11am and 1:30PM. **Sidetrack:** Open at 3pm, TGIF Show Tunes 4-9pm, Friday Night Dance Party 9pm-2am. ***Meeting House Tavern:*** HAPPY HOUR (5-8 PM): $5 Chicago Handshakes, ALL DAY SPECIALS: $6 Tito's Cocktails, $5 Miller Lite Drafts, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts & Pool. **The Sofo Tap:** HAPPY HOUR (3-6 PM): $4 Signature Margaritas, ALL DAY SPECIALS: $5 Premium Well Cocktails, $5 Miller Lite Drafts, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts. **Touche:** Open 5pm - 4am. 12/19 Cowboy Round Up :Christmas on the Range". 12/26 Porn Poker Party.

### SATURDAY

***2 Bears Tavern Uptown:*** HAPPY HOUR (3-7 PM): 1/2 Off All Draft Beers, ALL DAY SPECIALS: $5 Premium Well Cocktails, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pinball & Darts. ***@mosphere:*** $5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 3pm-5pm, Dancers 10pm -1am. ***Baton Show Lounge:*** Doors open at 6pm, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30pm. ***Cell Block:*** Open 12pm-3am. ***Charlie's:*** 7pm - 11pm SCCDA Country Dancing, 11pm Under the boots tonight. ***Jackhammer:*** $3 House Shots, $8 New Amsterdam & Red Bulls, $8 WYNK THC, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pool & Darts. **Kit Kat Lounge:** All Day Brunch All Drag,Brunch Seating Times 11am and 1:30PM. ***Lucky Horseshoe:*** Open with dancers at 3pm. $5 drink specials. ***Meeting House Tavern:*** HAPPY HOUR (2-5 PM): $5 New Amsterdam Cocktails, ALL DAY SPECIALS: $5 Lost Coast Tangerine Wheat Drafts, $5 Signature Margaritas, $8 WYNK THC, $3 House Shots, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts & Pool. ***North End:*** Open at 11am, $3 Miller Lite Drafts 11am-2pm. ***Sidetrack:*** Open at 1pm, Post-Brunch SaturGay Fun 1pm-6pm, Saturday Night Dance Party 9pm-3am, Dog Day 1st Saturday of the month 1-5pm. ***The Sofo Tap:*** HAPPY HOUR: (12-3 PM): 1/2 Off All Draft Beers, ALL DAY SPECIALS: $5 Miller Lite Drafts, $5 Signature Margaritas, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts ***Touche:*** Open 2pm - 5am. 12/20 GEAR NIGHT with BLUF Chicago Barber & Bootblack on duty Dress Code in Club Room BNC6pm.12/27 RIPE Party Dim Lights, Deep Beats Go-Go Dudes DJ Harry T

### SUNDAY FUNDAY

***2 Bears Tavern Uptown:*** $5 Premium Well Cocktails, $6 Chicago Handshakes, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pinball & Darts. ***@mosphere:*** $6 Jack Products, $4 Domestic Draft, House Shots $2. ***Baton Show Lounge:*** Doors Open at 11am, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30pm. ***Cell Block:*** Open 12pm-2am ***Charlie's:*** 1st and 3rd Sunday of the Month5pm - 7pm Queeriod, 7pm - 11pm Starlight Karaoke, 11pm Estrellas, Ritmo, y Perreo. 2nd Sunday 5pm -7pm Queeriod Presents Drag U 7pm - 11pm Starlight Karaoke, 11pm Estrellas, Ritmo y Perreo. 4th Sunday 5pm - 7pm Queeriod Presents Boyfriend Material, 7pm - 11pm Starlight Karaoke, 11pm Estrellas, Ritmo y Perreo. ***Hydrate:*** Doors open at 2pm Northalsted's Official after Brunch party. ***Jackhammer:*** HAPPY HOUR (3-7 PM): $3 House Shots, $5 New Amsterdam Cocktails, $7 Jackhammered Long Islands, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pool & Darts. **Kit Kat Lounge:** All Day Brunch All Drag,Brunch Seating Times 11am and 1:30PM. Sunday Tea Dance DJ Janky and Friends 4pm-10pm $9 Martinis. ***.Lucky Horseshoe:*** Open with dancers at 3pm. $5 drink specials. ***Meeting House Tavern:*** $5 Premium Well Cocktails, $12 Mimosa Carafes, $3 House Shots, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts & Pool. ***North End:*** Open at 11am, $3 Miller Lite Drafts 7-10pm ***Shakers on Clark***: $1 off Bloody Mary's, $1 off Tito's Mules, and $1 off all Revolution beers.. ***Sidetrack:*** Open at 1pm, Sunday Funday Show Tunes 4-9pm, Sunday Funday After Dark Dance Party 9pm-2am . ***The Sofo Tap:*** HAPPY HOUR (1-3 PM): $3 House Shots, FREE Hotdogs (while supplies last) ALL DAY SPECIALS: $6 New Amsterdam Cocktails, $5 Miller Lite Drafts, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts. ***Touche:*** Open 2pm - 4am. Beer Bust $2 Draughts & Sodas Clubroom opens 6pm Movie Night 7pm. 12/14 Hanukkah Begins.

**The Next Issue of GRAB hits the streets and online Tuesday January 20th, 2026. Reserve your space today www.GRABChicago.com Call 773-707-2660 or email GRABStacy@gmail.com**

# GRAB A HIT

**Top 30 Dance Chart For the First week of December**

Visit nexusradio.fm

| | Artist | Title |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Anabel Englund & Mary Droppinz | Born To Fly |
| 2 | Z3lla | Supernova (Radio Edit) |
| 3 | Frank Walker x Josh Ross x Norma Jean Martine | Lay It On Me |
| 4 | Emma Louise & Flume | Whenever You Want |
| 5 | Kastra & Amanda Collis | Wrong Side Of Love |
| 6 | Pls&Ty & Nu La | Carry The Light (Radio Edit) |
| 7 | Martin Jensen & Lawrent | Follow Me Ft. Sacha |
| 8 | James Alexandr & Autone | Boys & Girls Ft. Penelope |
| 9 | Mintd X Mesa & Boss | Right Here |
| 10 | 33 Below x RL Grime | LOOK4MYLOVE |
| 11 | Allegra | Red (Giuseppe D. Remix) |
| 12 | Taylor Swift | The Fate Of Ophelia (Loud Luxury Remix) |
| 13 | Lucas & Steve x Oaks x Jaimes | Love On Hold |
| 14 | Mr. Belt & Wezol | Dopamine Ft. Malou |
| 15 | Richard Durand x York x Lea Key | Sunrise (Radio) |
| 16 | Elephante & X.O.Anne | Dreaming Season |
| 17 | Dancingfaraz | Take Control |
| 18 | Armnhmr & Lockbox | Free Ft. Sara Benyo & Gabriel Eli |
| 19 | David Guetta x Olivier Giacomotto x Kiko | After You |
| 20 | Sigala x Leigh Anne x Jonita Gandhi | Hello |
| 21 | Jes | Forever Young |
| 22 | Audien x MakJ | Slide Away Ft. Julia Church |
| 23 | Bijou & Shayan | Better Love |
| 24 | ILLENIUM | Forever ft. Tom Grennan & Alna |
| 25 | Shouse & Cub Sport | Only You |
| 26 | Loud Luxury | R U Down |
| 27 | Joki x Ridges | Don't Let Me Down (Radio Edit) |
| 28 | Jes X Alex M.O.R.P.H. X Mrphlndr | Spellbound |
| 29 | Laszewo | 3am |
| 30 | Sonny Fodera x D.O.D. & Poppy Baskcomb | Think About Us |

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# GRAB ROGER

## *Avoiding Financial Grief*

**By Roger V. McCaffre-Boss, Esq.**

Imagine, for a moment, the unthinkable: You're in a car wreck or have a heart attack and suddenly you are in the hospital for a long time. Who pays the mortgage, who makes the car payment? Who cashes your pay checks or makes insurance claims? Who manages your investments?

If you assume that your partner, lover or married spouse could automatically manage everything for you, think again. Your spouse does not have the legal authority to act on your behalf. If bank accounts, stocks or mutual funds are in one person's name alone, his or her hands will be tied.

And your spouse may be restricted even if property is owned in both of your names. For example, if title of your house in held in both of your names, your spouse can't sell it unless both of you sign the papers.

The way around this potential nightmare is a simple document called a durable power of attorney. With this legal document, you appoint a specific person to manage your finances if you become incapacitated or incompetent. Generally, this person would be able to write checks from your accounts, pay your taxes, sell stocks and bonds and handle real estate transactions and other financial matters.

Without such written authority the non-disabled spouse would be powerless to help his or her disabled spouse with banking problems, real estate snafus or representing their disabled spouse in applying for insurance, unemployment or social security benefits.

And if family members tried to take over control of the bank accounts and property of their disabled (non-married) child, the non-disabled partner would only be able to stand by and watch, especially painful if it involved property and money the couple owned together.

The Illinois State Legislature has enacted a law entitled the "Illinois Power of Attorney Act" which formerly recognizes the right of an individual (principal) to delegate personal and financial decision making power to an "agent" – a LGBT spouse, lover or partner. The law ensures the right of LGBT couples to have their spouse's powers to be the same as their own to control all aspects of personal financial matters throughout their lifetime, including periods of disability, and to continue until their death unless revoked.

The law anticipates that by using a standardized form an individual will be assured that his or her agent's authority will be honored by third parties with whom the agent deals, regardless of the mental condition of the principal when the power is used.

Although the process of designating someone as your agent has been simplified by the use of standardized forms, the power you are granting is enormous and can have severe consequences if abused. The decision to grant anyone such extensive power should only be made after first consulting with your attorney to understand the consequences and protections against abuse the law provides.

*Roger McCaffrey-Boss is a gradute of Hamline University School of Law, St. Paul, Minnesota, and is a member of the Chicago Bar Association. You can email him at* ***RVMLawyer@aol.com****. He suggests that you consult your own lawyer for any specific questions regarding the issues raised in this column.*

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# GRAB HOLLY

## *A Christmas Fantasy*

**By Holly Maholm**

Are you afflicted with an infamous disease? Perhaps leprosy, syphilis or the Pox? You are? Excellent! Then you know how I feel. Let me explain.
For years, those who have known me in Wellington know that I aspire to be a "writer." In particular, my creative efforts generally take the form of short stories. "But wait," you ask, "what similarities can possibly exist between – on the one hand – my harmless authorial endeavors (involving short stories), and – on the other hand – a disease like syphilis (which involves crusty, pustulant sores)?"

The connection is this: That my friends at Donut Time are no more likely to inquire as to my writing than they would be to comment upon evidence of leprosy visible on my face. No. They shrink back from acknowledging my pretensions of being a "writer" lest I respond, "Yes, I just finished a story; would you like to read it?" Thus, you see, my inoffensive little aspiration exercises great power among my friends, a power which I found a way to exploit.

It was late afternoon on a day shortly before Christmas when I walked in the door at Donut Time. There, a game of Secret Santa was just ending. Looking around for a seat, I saw many of my friends present. I slid into a booth across from Mike (teacher at the high school, and Tribune of the Soldiers of Rome Training Program he managed there). Next to him was a student, Brian, whom I had met many times before. Brian – an outgoing young gay guy (but not yet wise to the ways of the world) – turned to me and (as a conversation starter) ventured a friendly inquiry.

"Say, Holly, I heard you do creative writing. So what sort of stories do you write?" Now, by happenstance, there was a brief lull in the general hubbub, which allowed that innocent question to be heard by all. Instantly, a profound silence fell over the room. Notwithstanding this was the Christmas Season, I saw before me a chance to indulge my devilish sense of humor.

"Since you asked, Brian," I responded, "I will tell you. I write in the genre of 'Fantasy,' and since you asked, I will tell you my most recent story."

I glanced over at Dot – who would have expired on the spot had she known what I was about to say – and started in: "So… back on that first Christmas morning, in that humble manger in Bethlehem, we are told that Joseph, Mary and the Baby Jesus were surrounded by common farm animals: Several sheep and cows, stray dogs, horses belonging to guests at the inn, and (we must not forget) the donkey who carried Mary to that place. But what history does not record was the presence in that rustic stable of a creature having supernatural powers, which 'History' was unable to witness, inasmuch as that creature used magic to remain invisible." I continued.

"I am honored and privileged to reveal to you this secret: There was a unicorn in attendance at the birth of the Christ child, and as her gift to the newborn, she (I will assume her gender) made repeated use of her magic so as to bathe the infant with a golden light that illuminated both the blessed child and his mother. What I have just told you is a secret known only to the unicorns, but they have never forgotten their role in that 'divine delivery' - a contribution which they celebrate even today."
Looking around the room, I saw that all were speechless with amazement. "Anyway," I continued, "I came here to pick up Dot, so we can go out to the celebration the unicorns will be holding out at the Horse Rescue. Here's what they're planning: A mare who recently gave birth – which would be Glitter – and her foal, Azura, will go out into the field behind the orchard, under the stars, where they will curl up together – representing Mary and the Christ child.

"Next, Penelope, Queen of the Unicorns, will give a little speech about that one faithful unicorn who was there at the birth, and how grateful we are to her. Then, the Queen will give a blessing, and after that – imagining a newborn infant to be curled up with mother and foal – one-by-one each unicorn will approach Glitter and Azura and use their magic to generate a pure and sparkling light, which could not help but delight those innocent, infant eyes." I finished speaking, and Cindy piped up:

"Holly, you said you were writing 'Fantasies,' and I guarantee what you just told us is the most fantastic story we've ever heard." Then turning her head, she whispered to those near her, "The less said about this ever again, the better."

True to her words, neither Dot nor I ever heard anyone speak of this story again.

(*To be continued)*

*Holly Maholm is a transgender woman living in Cleveland, Ohio. Look for Holly's book Offered Magic: My Life Among the Unicorns (now available on Amazon) which collects the first 126 episodes of Holly's adventures involving both magical unicorns and her LGBTQ friends. Send a message to Holly at* ***www.hollymaholm.com.***

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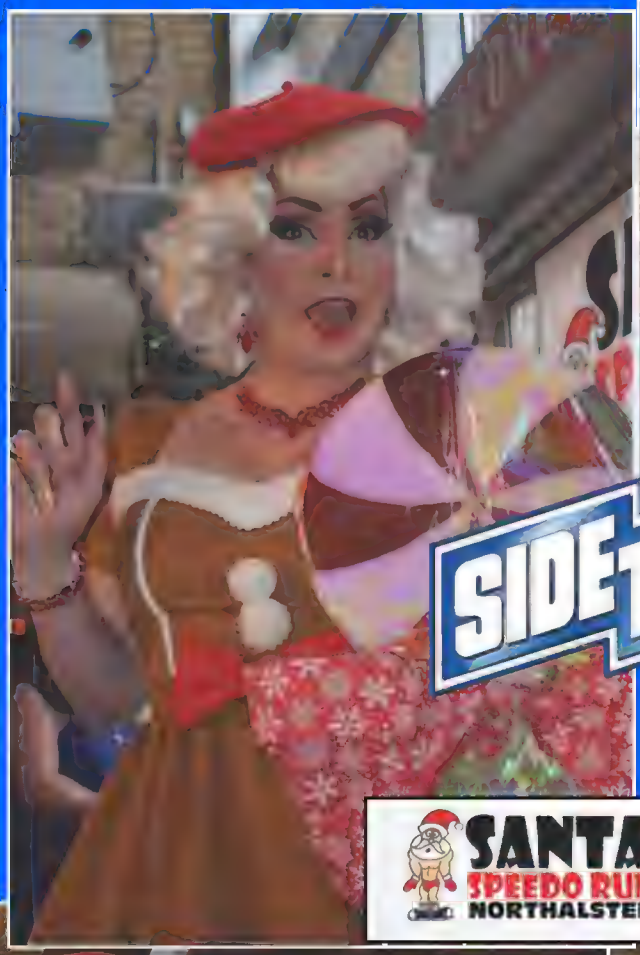

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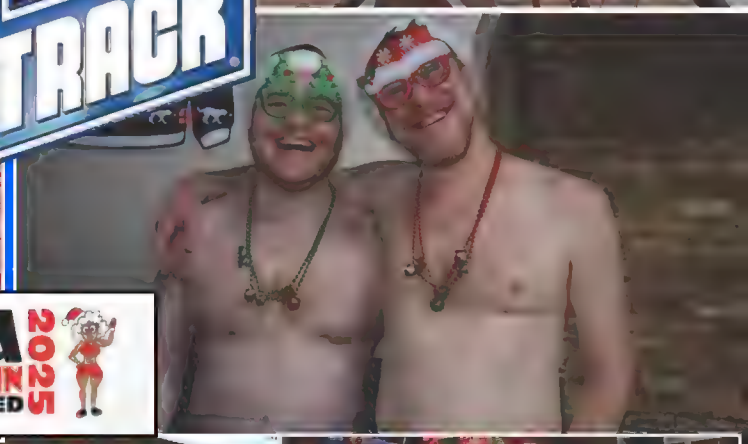

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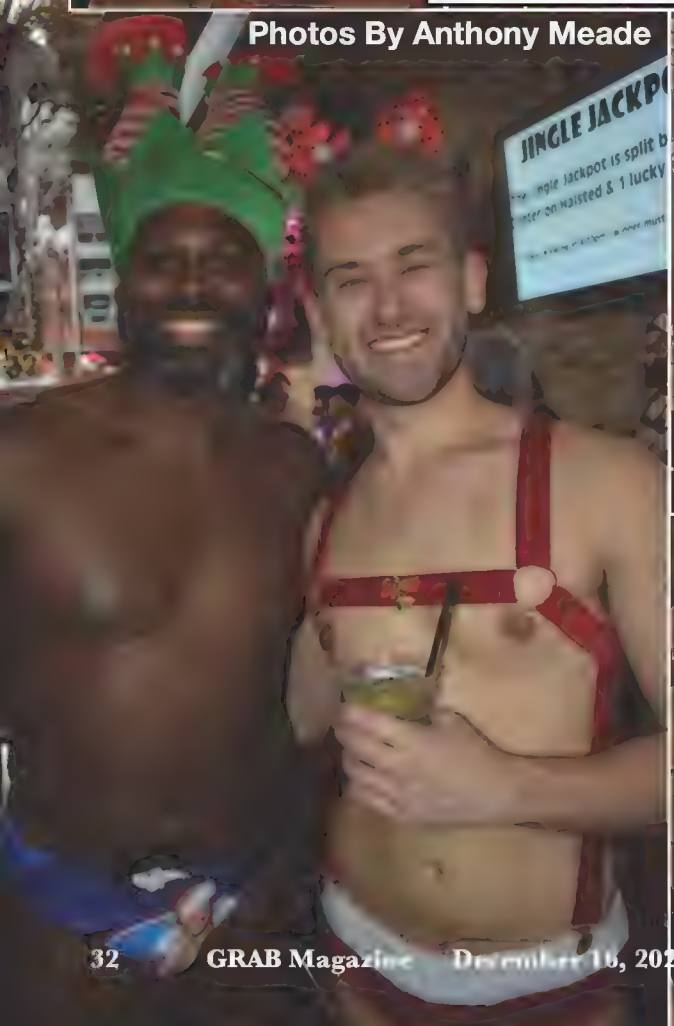

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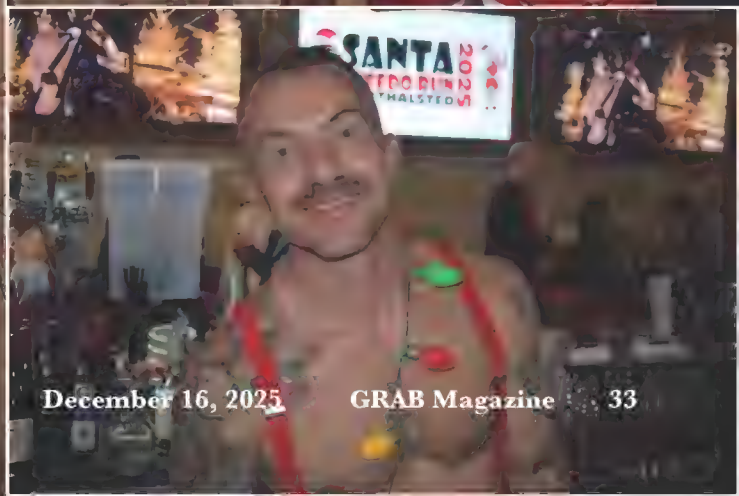
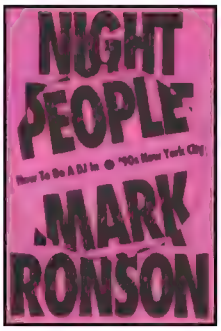


# GRAB A BOOK

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

***"Night People"*** *How to Be a DJ in '90s New York City" by Mark Ronson c.2025, Grand Central $29.00 256 pages*




You just can't hold still.

The music starts and your hips shake, your shoulders bounce, your fingers tickle the sky to match a beat. Your air guitar is on-point, your head bops and your toes tap. You can't help it. As in the new memoir, "Night People" by Mark Ronson, you just gotta dance.

With a mother who swanned around with rock bands, a father who founded a music publishing company, and a stepfather who founded the band, Foreigner, it was natural that Mark Ronson would fall into a music career of some sort. He says he was only ten years old when he realized the awesome power of music.

As a pre-teen, he liked to mix music in his stepfather's studio. As a teenager, he formed a band with Sean Lennon that didn't quite catch on. In the fall of his senior year of high school, Ronson began sneaking into Manhattan clubs to listen to music, dance, and find drugs. It was there that he noticed the alchemy that the DJs created and he searched for someone who'd teach him how to do that, too. He became obsessed.

Finding a gig in a New York club, though, was not easy.

Ronson worked a few semi-regular nights around New York City, and at various private parties to hone his skills. His mother purchased for him the electronic equipment he needed, turntables, and amps. He befriended guys who taught him where to get music demos and what to look for at distributor offices, and he glad-handed other DJs, club owners, and music artists.

That, and the rush he got when the dance floor was packed, made the job glamorous. But sometimes, attendance was low, DJ booths were located in undesirable places, and that totally killed the vibe.

Some people, he says, are mostly day people. For others, though, sunlight is something to be endured. Nighttime is when they when they feel most alive.

Part esoteric hip-hop discography, part biography, part SNL's Stefan, and part cultural history, "Night People" very likely has a very narrow audience. If you weren't deep into clubbing back in the day, you can just stop here. If you were ages 15 to 30, thirty years ago, and you never missed club night then, keep reading. This is your book.

Author Mark Ronson talks the talk, which can be good for anyone who knows the highs of a jam-packed club and the thrill of being recognized for skills with a turntable. That can be fun, but it may also be too detailed: mixology is an extremely heavy subject here. Many of the tunes he names were hits only in the clubs and only briefly, and many of the people he name-drops are long gone. Readers may find themselves not particularly caring. Heavy sigh.

This isn't a bad book, but it's absolutely not for everyone. If you weren't into clubbing, pass and you won't miss a thing. If you were a die-hard club kid back then, though, "Night People" will make your eyes dance.

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***"Queer Enlightenments: A Hidden History of Lovers, Lawbreakers, and Homemakers"*** *by Anthony Delaney c.2025, Atlantic Monthly Press $30.00 352 pages*

It had to start somewhere.

The discrimination, the persecution, the inequality, it had a launching point. Can you put your finger on that date? Was it DADT, the 1950s scare, the Kinsey report? Certainly not Stonewall, or the Marriage Act, so where did it come from? In "Queer Enlightenments: A Hidden History of Lovers, Lawbreakers, and Homemakers" by Anthony Delaney, the story of queer oppression goes back so much further…

The first recorded instance of the word "homosexual" arrived loudly in the spring of 1868: Hungarian journalist Károly Mária Kerthbeny wrote a letter to German activist Karl Heinrich Ulrichs referring to "same-sex-attracted men" with that new term. Many people believe that this was the "invention" of homosexuality, but Delaney begs to differ.

"Queer histories run much deeper than this…" he says.

Take, for instance, the delightfully-named Mrs. Clap, who ran a "House" in London in which men often met other men for "marriage." On a February night in 1726, Mrs. Clap's House was raided and forty men were taken to jail, where they were put in filthy, dank confines until the courts could get to them. One of the men was ultimately hanged for the crime of sodomy. Mrs. Clap was pilloried, and then disappeared from history.

William Pulteney had a duel with John, Lord Hervey, over insults flung at the latter man. The truth: Hervey was, in fact, openly a "sodomite." He and his companion, Ste Fox had even set up a home together.

Adopting your lover was common in eighteenth century London, in order to make him a legal heir. In about 1769, rumors spread that the lovely female spy, the Chevalier d'Éon, was actually Charles d'Éon de Beaumont, a man who had been dressing in feminine attire for much longer than his espionage career. Anne Lister's masculine demeanor often left her an "outcast." And as George Wilson brought his bride to North American in 1821, he confessed to loving men, thus becoming North America's first official "female husband."

Sometimes, history can be quite dry. So can author Anthony Delaney's wit. Together, though, they work well inside "Queer Enlightenments."

Undoubtedly, you well know that inequality and persecution aren't new things - which Delaney underscores here - and queer ancestors faced them head-on, just as people do today. The twist, in this often-chilling narrative, is that punishments levied on eighteenth- and nineteenth-century queer folk was harsher and Delaney doesn't soften those accounts for readers. Read this book, and you're platform-side at a hanging, in jail with an ally, at a duel with a complicated basis, embedded in a King's court, and on a ship with a man whose new wife generously ignored his secret. Most of these tales are set in Great Britain and Europe, but North America features some, and Delaney wraps up thing nicely for today's relevance.

While there's some amusing side-eyeing in this book, "Queer Enlightenments" is a bit on the heavy side, so give yourself time with it. Pick it up, though, and you'll love it til the end.

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11
7
8
9
Devon
61
Granville
10
Clark
Broadway
Sheridan
Ridge
Bryn Mawr
LAKESHORE DRIVE
12
48
67
16
Clark
Foster
70
15
52
53
Lawrence
14
6
O'Hare
Maps
Midway
WRIGLEY FIELD
Addison
Halsted
20
21
23
24
27
25
3
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Clark
31
51
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32
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33
LAKESHORE DRIVE
49
63
39
56
Broadway
38
69
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43
2
26
Belmont
45
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GRAB MAGAZINE
MAPS
GRAB a Bite
GRAB a Drink
GRAB Some Sleep
GRAB Some Culture
GRAB a Towel

# GRAB CLASSIFIEDS

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